

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 AID-05 ACDA-07

/102 W

-----281219Z 006397 /20

R 280500Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 795

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM WGQRO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEXBASSY DOHA

TUQMBI/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 354

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T SANA 1217

E.O. 11652: GDS

UD

TAGS:PFOR, SO, UR

SUBJECT: SIAD BARRE ON SOVIETS, ETHIOPIA

BEGIN SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO SUDANESE AMBASSADOR,  
BARRE CALLS FOR BREAK-UP OF ETHIOPIA,  
DENOUNCES SOVIET AID TO ETHIOPIAN CLIQUE WHICH IS AS  
IMPERIALISTIC AS EMPEROR'S GOVERNMENT BUT WITH LESS  
SUPPOLM IN COUNTRY.

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BARRE EVEN SAID SIMALI KOULD GIVE US SAME  
MILITARY ACCESS TO COUNTRY THAT SOVIETS ENJOYED, I.E.  
ANY SHIP VISIT WHICH CAME WITH ONE MONTH NOTICE.  
END SUMMARY.

1. SUDANESE AMBASADOR TO YAR IS HIGHLY ARTICULATE  
AND FREINDLY DIPLOMAT WHO HAS PROVEN CONSISTENTLY

CAREFUL AND RELIABLE IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH US IN PAST. HE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH TODAY (MARCH 27), IN MEETING WITH US AMBASSADOR AND DCM, RECENT FLYING MISSION HE UNDERTOOK TO MOGADISCIO TO PERSUADE GDSR PRESIDENT SAID BARRE TO ATTEND TAIZ SUMMIT. BARRE HAD BACKED OUT AT LAST MINUTE OF THIS CONFERENCE WITH NORTH ANBASOUTH YEMEN AND SUDAN (SEE SEPTEL) AND SUDANESE AMBASSADOR AHMADI SPENT A HARD BUT SUCCESSFUL HOUR OF TALK IN MOGADISCIO WITH BARRE PERSUADING HIM TO CHANGE HIS MIND AGAIN AND COME TO TAIZ AFTER ALL.

2. ACCORDING TO HAMADI, BARRE WAS MAD. HE SPENT MUCH OF TIME DAMNING THE SOVIETS. BARRE SAID THEY "NEVER GAVE SOMALIA ANYTHING BUT GUNUBZN AND NOW "IN BETRAYAL OF SOMALI NATIONAL INTERESTS", THEY WERE "POURING WEAPONS INTO ETHIOPIA". BARRE STATED SOVIETS HAD SENT CUBANS INTO ETHIOPIA IN MILITARY ROLES. SOMALIA WAS SOCIALIST BUT NATIONAL INTERESTS CAME FIRST."

3. AHMADI QUOTED BARRE AS SAYING ONLY POSITION FOR ETHIOPIA WAS "TO BREAK IT UP" SO SOMALIS AND OTHER CAPTIVE PEOPLES COULD BE FREE OF AMHARA DOMINATION. NEW GOVERNMENT IN ADDIS, BUT TEST OF POPULAR RIGHT TO RULE, WAS NOT RPT NO BETTER THAN OLD ONE. NEW GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, WAS MURDEROUS AND UNSTABLE, SOMALIS WOULDN'T DEAL WITH IT.

4. AHMADI COULDN'T CONFIRM REPORTS THA SIAD HAD  
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FLOWN TO ADEN TO MEET WITH CASTRO AND MENGISTU AND PDRY PRESIDENT SALIM RUBAY'U ALI. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD STORY, BUT COULDN'T CONFIRM IT, AND DOUBTED IT ON BASIS HIS TALK WITH BARRE.

5. AHMADI PERSUADED BARRE TO DECIDE FINALLY TO COME TO TAIZ MEETING BY POINTING TO NEED OF SOMALIA FOR ARAB SUPPORT IN ANY FURTHER MOVES VIS-A-VIS DJIBOUTI OR ETHIOPIA. HE SAID BARRE WAS REFUSING NOT AS RESULT OF SOVIET PRESSURE -- FAR FROM IT, SAID AHMADI -- BUT BECAUSE HE DID NOT BELIEVE SOVIET-BACKED PDRY WOULD SUPPORT SOMALIS. AHMADI SAID HE TOLD BARRE IF THAT WAS SOMALI CONCERN IT WAS MITAKE TO LET PDRY REPRESENT SOVIET VIEWS ON ETHIOPIA WITHOUT SOMALIA PRESENT. AHMADI ALSO ARGUED, HOWEVER, THAT SUDANESE THOUGHT THE PDRY, ASKED TO DECIDE BETWEEN ARAB AND SOVIET INTERESTS, WOULD BE MORE ACCOMMODATING OF SOMALI INTERESTS. ACCORDING TO AHMADI, THIS PROVED TO BE CASE AND BARRE LEFT TAIZ QUITE PLEASED.

6. IN COURSE OF THIS DISCUSSION -- IN WHICH BARRE SPOKE ALMOST AS HEATEDLY ABOUT SOVIETS AS ABOUT ETHIOPIANS, AHMADI ASKED BARRE ABOUT SOVIET BASES IN SOMALIA. BARRE SAID THEY EXISTED, IT WAS WELL KNOWN, BUT SOMALIS KEPT CLOSE TABS ON THEM (AHMADI INSITED THAT BARRE IS USING HIS SON-IN-LAW, AHMAD SULAYMAN, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY, TO BEGIN SURVEILLANCE OF CERTAIN LEFTIST OFFICERS IN ARMY AND AS WELL AS LEFTIST PARTY MEMBERS). BARRE THEN SAID SEPcially THAT US SHIPS COULD VISIT IF THEY REQUESTED ONE MONTH IN ADVANCE AND TOLD AHMADI TO PASS THIS ON.

COMMENT: HERE IN SANA WE DON'T KNOW IF US NAVY SHIPS HAVE VISITED SOMALIA RECENTLY, BUT IF THEY HAVE NOT THIS WOULD BE INTERESTING TEST OF SOMALI DISAFFECTION WITH SOVIETS, ONE THAT MIGHT BROADEN US-SOMALI EXCHANGES.

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WHY NOT REQUEST VISIT -- WITH A MONTH'S NOTICE, OF COURSE?  
SCOTES

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, SO, UR, US, ET, (SIAD BARRE, MOHAMED)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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